

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 21, 2005, claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2; claims 1-14 were rejected under § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,920,883 (Barker '883); and claims 1, 15, and 16 were rejected under § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,998,477 (Barker '477).

RESTRICTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 121

Applicant confirms the election of invention I, including claims 1-16.

Claims 17-30 have been cancelled, without prejudice to filing in divisional applications. Newly added claims 31-37 are part of the invention of group I.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 14 has been amended to address the rejection.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 is allowable over either Barker '883 or Barker '477. Claim 1 now recites a first explosive element in a sealed space, a cable, a component to provide a signal over the cable to the first explosive element to detonate the first explosive element, and a second explosive element having a first portion inside the sealed space, and a second portion outside the sealed space exposed to outside pressure, where the first explosive element initiates the second explosive element *without presence of a pressure barrier between the first and second explosive elements*.

Although Barker '883 discloses an explosive device 5 attached to an electrical feedthrough 1 (Barker '883, 3:8-9), Barker '883 specifically discloses that a bulkhead 12 (barrier) must be provided between the explosive device 5 and a detonator 9 (*See* Fig. 1A of Barker '883). This bulkhead or barrier is also depicted in each of the implementations depicted in Figures 2-4A (barrier 21 in Fig. 2, barrier 30 in Fig. 3, and barrier in Fig. 4A). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Barker '883 clearly does not anticipate claim 1.

Barker '477 similarly discloses a barrier 25 in its Fig. 2 implementation, a barrier 31 in the Fig. 3 implementation, and a barrier 45 in the Fig. 4 implementation. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is also not anticipated by Barker '477.

Independent claim 36 is also allowable over the cited references, as neither reference discloses a detonator in a sealed space, a booster explosive *contacted* to the detonator in the sealed space, and a detonating cord also *contacted* to the booster explosive. Due to the presence of the barriers in Barker '477 and '883, the booster explosives depicted these two references cannot be *contacted* to both the detonator and the detonator cord.


Dependent claims, including newly added dependent claims 31-35 and 37, are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims. Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (SHL.0242US).

Respectfully submitted,

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